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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

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REPLY TO: 3430 FI&DM Evaluation March 16, 1979

SUBJECT: Biological Evaluation - Indian Ridge, Trabuco District

TO: Forest Supervisor, Cleveland N.F.

In response to a pest detection report from Charles Coval, entomologist John Pierce accompanied Coval on a field inspection of the Indian Ridge area on February 22, 1979. This inspection covering some 480 acres confirmed that pine engraver beetles, Ips spp. were killing small coulter pine trees in a thinning area and were top-killing old, decadent coulter pines. All of the small infested trees that can be found have been cut and burned. There remain a few larger, severely top-killed trees that should be treated before warm weather permits beetle emergence.

The EAR for the area has concluded that a reasonable effort to suppress tree killing beetles in the area is justified. Within two years the expectations are that the area, eventually totaling some 6400 acres, will become a major attraction for dispersed-type recreation use in southern California and a conifer component in the vegetation cover is critically needed for this recreational use. The previous coulter pine stands were largely destroyed by pine engraver beetles during the 1960's - Pierce can corroborate this infestation history since he was working in the area at that time. These pine engraver beetle outbreaks were eventually concluded by a fire that burned over the area in the late 1960's. Now, a decade after the fire, young coulter pines are emerging from the brush over hundreds of acres. Work is now underway to release these young stands from brush competition to encourage recreationally valuable pine stands.

Another pest which could become an important factor in the management of the area is the occurrence of a bole canker disease. This disease was rampant in the Indian Ridge area in the 1960's and is conspicious in many of the scattered old trees that survived the fire. The stem canker is probably Endocronartium harknessii.

This disease causes the trees to break at the point weakened by the infection. If the young-growth coulter pine stands become infected, this continuous breakage could provide green slash which may well serve as breeding material for pine engraver beetles. Upon emergence, these beetles could then cause continued mortality or top-killing in the young-growth stands.

If you are concerned about the present or potential problem this pathogen may pose for the management of the coulter pine stands at Indian Ridge, please let me know and I will arrange for a follow-up evaluation by a pathologist on my staff.

Wilfred L. Freeman Jr

WILFRED L. FREEMAN, JR., Director
Forest Insect and Disease Management

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QUESTIONS FOR

FIDM PLANNING & ACCOMPLISHMENT

REPORTING SYSTEM

(From Biological Evaluation)

FOREST Cleveland DISTRICT Tahoe

AREA NAME Fabian Ridge DATE 2/22/77

1.) Pest complex - Ips & rust

2.) Forest type - CP/B ____ Coulter pine - big cone spruce and brush

3.) Tree species affected - CP Coulter pine

4.) Acres of host type surveyed - 480

5.) a.) Acres of host type affected +/- 6400 potential

b.) Volume of host type affected - list by general pest complex

1.) Bark beetle - Ips
2.) Dwarfmistletoe
3.) Root disease
4.) Defoliators
5.) Other - Rust

Timber stand expected to provide 633,000 visitor days of recreation per year.

6.) Per-cent of affected area in the timber base - None

7.) Per-cent of affected area accessible to logging - None

8.) Number of people trained - 2

9.) New methods applied - Possible sanitation to suppress rust

cc: HART
SRAGO